

REMARKS

The Examiner, Mr. Chao is thanked for the courtesy extended applicants' attorney during the telephone interview of July 7, 2008, as indicated in the Interview Summary. Applicants note that claim 1 of this application has been amended in the manner discussed at the interview, and additionally, new claim 11 has been presented which recites corresponding features. Applicants submit that these claims patentably distinguish over the cited art, as will become clear from the following discussion.

Turning to the amendment of claim 1, this claim has been amended to recite the feature as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings of this application, that the flexible circuit board 2 is divided into a plurality of sections by at least one of the slits 3 of the flexible circuit board, as illustrated in Fig. 2, so as to provide separate sections, as illustrated in Fig. 1, each of which is spirally wound, as illustrated in Fig. 1, and described in the specification of this application. Applicants note that new independent claim 11 recites similar features.

As to the rejection of claims 1 - 8 and 10 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Nix et al (US 7,037,269 B2) and the rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nix et al in view of Holdaway et al (US 2001/0047134 A1), such rejections are traversed insofar as they are applicable to the present claims and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Turning to Nix et al, the Examiner refers to item 12 of Nix et al as a flexible circuit board contending that the flexible circuit board has slits "(the flexible circuit board must have areas of non-conduction in order to separate the different signal lines) dividing single lines into sections at each of said positions at a predetermined

angle, and each section of the flexible circuit board divided by the slits is separately wound (col. 4, lines 32 - 34); Fig. 6(a)". (emphasis added). Contrary to the position set forth by the Examiner, as shown in Fig. 6A and 6B of Nix et al, while the flexible circuit 12 is arranged in a helical configuration, and it passes from the transducer array 3 to the multiplexer units 5 through the balloon device 2, as described in column 4, lines 32 - 34 of Nix et al, it is readily apparent that there is no disclosure of slits separating sections of the flexible circuit 12 into sections in which each section of the flexible circuit board which is divided by at least one of the slits of the flexible circuit board is separately spirally wound, as now recited in independent claims 1 and 11 of this application. Thus, applicants submit that claims 1 and 11 recite features not disclosed or taught by Nix et al in the sense of 35 USC 102 or 35 USC 103, and all claims should be considered allowable thereover.

As to the dependent claims 2 - 10, applicants submit that such claims, when considered in conjunction with parent claim 1, recite further features which patentably distinguish over Nix et al, and insofar as Holdaway et al is combined with Nix et al in relation to claim 9, it is noted that Holdaway et al fails to overcome the deficiencies of Nix et al as pointed out above. Thus, dependent claim 9 also recites features which patentably distinguish over the proposed combination of Nix et al and Holdaway et al in the sense of 35 USC 103.

Accordingly, applicants submit that all claims present in this application recite features not disclosed or taught in the cited art, and such claims should be considered allowable thereover.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 11 and the dependent claims recite features which patentably distinguish over the cited art such that all claims should now be in

condition for allowance. Accordingly, issuance of an action of favorable nature is courteously solicited.

Also submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement and consideration of the documents is requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 529.44217X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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